Headmasters' Conference.

89. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when the last English High School Headmasters' Conference was held ;

(*b*) whether provision in the budget was made in any year after that for holding such a conference, whether any conference was held since then, and, if not, the reasons for the failure ; and

(*c*) whether they will revive the conference this school-year (1925-26) and continue it in the years to come ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The last conference of English High School Headmasters was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th April, 1921.

(*b*) Provision was made in the budgets of 1097, 1098 and 1099, but the question of holding the next conference of Headmasters was allowed to lie over in view of the changes likely to result from the deliberations of the University Committee.

(*c*) Government do not propose to have a conference this year. The question of holding conferences in the future will be considered from time to time.

Cocoanut Palm Disease.

90. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that many of the cocoanut palms in the Vaikam and Shertallai taluks are suffering from a contagious disease ?

(*b*) Are they aware that the disease is rapidly spreading ?

(*c*) Has the Department of Agriculture found out any effective remedy for the disease ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the only remedy suggested by the department is to cut off all the leaves that are affected ?

(*e*) Do the Government know that the remedy suggested is of no practical benefit ?

(*f*) Do the Government propose to take some effective measures for the speedy eradication of the disease ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) :

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative.

(*d*) No. Besides cutting off and burning the affected leaves, the department has suggested also the spraying of the healthy ones with an insecticide.

(*e*) It is reported that the remedy will be effective if the operations are carried out on all the infected trees in a particular locality. If some trees are treated and not the rest, the trees that have been treated will get the infection from the untreated ones.

(*f*) Remedial measures are being taken by the Government Entomologist and the work of eradication will be carried on more extensively.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : May I know the cause and the nature of this disease ?

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MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): It is called the leaf-roller disease. The cause is a worm.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Has the Director of Agriculture gone to the spot and examined the affected trees?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The Entomologist and the Demonstrator have gone and are at work there.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Have they submitted a report to Government about the nature of the disease?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): It is a common disease. The nature of the disease has been given in the departmental reports of the previous years.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): May I know when this disease broke in the State?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I cannot give the exact date; but it has been in existence for the last five years.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): What will be the cost of the remedy suggested by the department?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Government will enquire.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): May I know whether the department has treated all the affected trees in a particular locality?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) What is meant by 'particular locality? Does the member mean Vaikam?

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): No, I mean any particular locality where the disease is prevalent.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The disease was in existence in the Quilon Division some years back. I know from my own experience that the disease has been successfully treated.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): May I know whether the disease that is now spreading at Vaikam is the same as the one that was prevalent in the Quilon Division?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Yes, it is leaf-roller disease.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Is that the report of the department?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Yes.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Has the department reported that the disease now spreading at Vaikam and the disease that was prevalent in Quilon are the same?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Yes.

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MR. A.J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : Has the department treated all the infected trees in any particular locality ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Which particular locality ?

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : Any particular locality.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) : They are now treating the affected areas in Vaikam and Shertallai. The Entomologist and the Demonstrator are at work there.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : Are they treating it free of cost ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The information will be called for.

Direct Recruitment of L. T's. as Teachers.

91. **MR. A. K. PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : (1) Are the Government aware of the fact that non-stipendiary L. T's are available for direct recruitment to the Education Department and that in their case Government stand to gain the stipendiary investment of a decent sum ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for having preferred raw graduates to L. T's when the latter were also among the candidates who applied ?

(3) Have any L. T's been directly recruited to the department in previous years and what were the terms on which they were entertained ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (1) Government are aware that L. T's who were non-stipendiary students of the Training College are available for recruitment to the Education Department and that, if they are appointed, Government will be saved the expense of granting stipends for training.

(2) In the English School (Boys) Branch of the department, only graduates with previous acting service in the department have been appointed since the L. T's applied. In the Girls' School Branch, one untrained graduate in Mathematics has been appointed as there was no trained graduate applicant with the necessary qualifications. In the Vernacular Branch, two untrained graduates have been appointed temporarily ; but these appointments are being reconsidered. Further specific cases that the member may bring to notice will be looked into.

(3) Some L. T's were recruited to the department in previous years on initial salaries varying from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per mensem.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Sir, in view of the fact that the Government also recognise that, if non-stipendiary L. T's. are appointed, Government will be able to save the expenditure on account of stipends for the Government teachers that are now being trained, and also in view of the fact that the *Education Code* insists on having L. T's , will not the Government make it a rule that only non-stipendiary L. T's. should be appointed whenever they are available ?

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